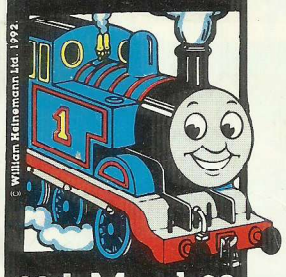
MARVEL®



© William Heinemann Ltd. 1992

28th March 92
No 116 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

HAROLD

COMPETITION...

THOMAS EASTER SETS TO BE WON

INSIDE!

9 770954 939039 13

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It was a very windy day on the Island of Sodor and the Fat Controller was carefully re-organising his railway timetables in order to include some extra services. In the story that begins on page 3, the Fat Controller asks Harold the Helicopter to help one of his very important engines, who has stopped on the line! But will Harold find the weather conditions difficult too!

12 THOMAS EASTER SETS TO BE WON!

You can win one of these charming **Thomas Easter Sets**, shown below! All you have to do is answer this question!

1. What are the Saddletank Twin Engines called?

The senders of the first **12** correct entries drawn from our post bag on **Friday 10th April**, will win a **Thomas Easter Set** from *Kinnerton Confectionary Ltd.* Each **Thomas Easter Set** comprises of **3 miniature eggets**. The **Thomas Easter sets** are also available for sale right now in most high street stores. Please send your entries to this competition on a postcard, to: *Thomas Easter Set Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.*

KINNERTON Confectionery

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer). Marvel Comics Ltd. 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2. The Fat Controller's Card Offer, plus a stamped addressed envelope to:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

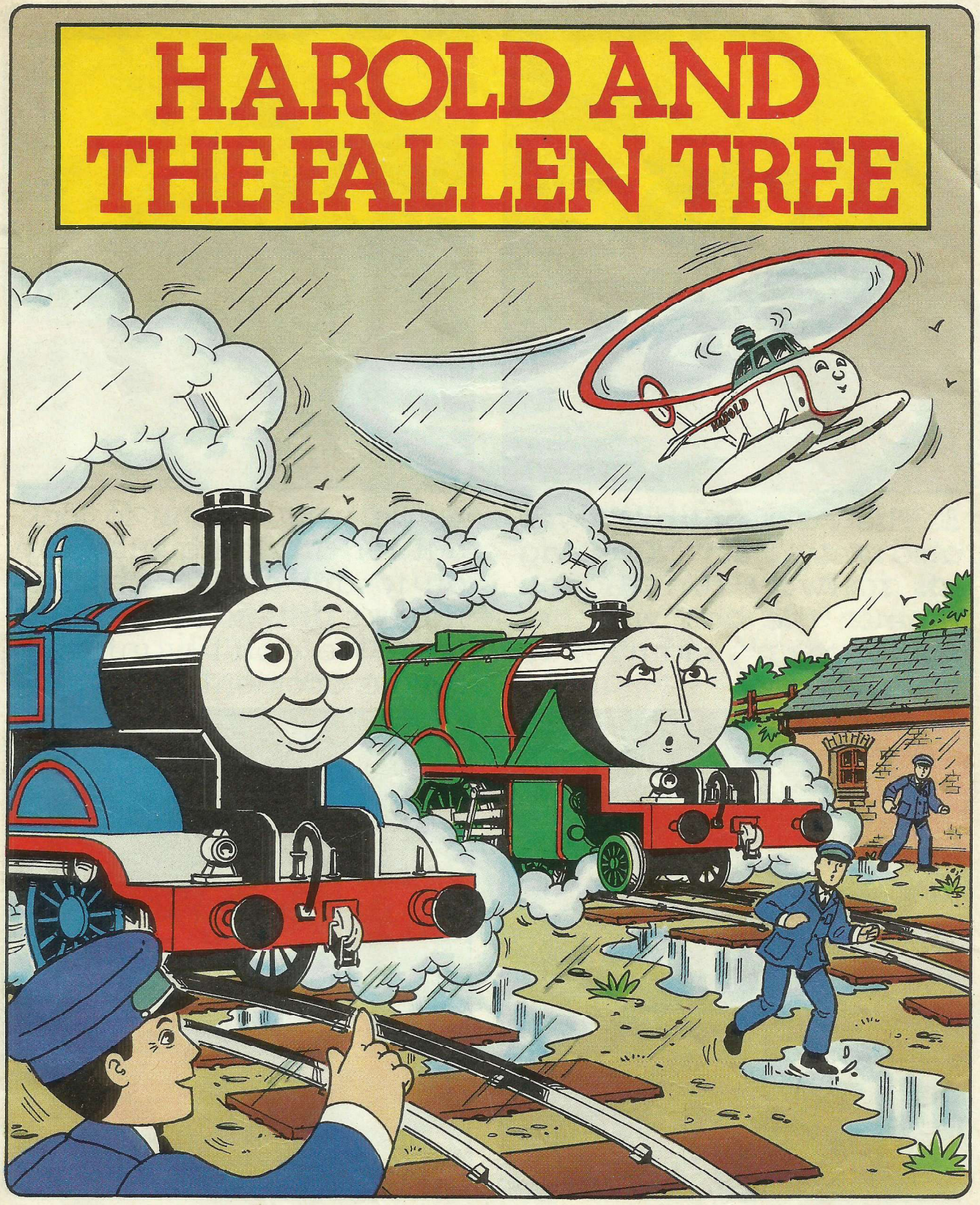
Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2. Copyright © William Heinemann Ltd. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Ltd to Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. ISSN 0954-9390. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

HAROLD AND THE FALLEN TREE



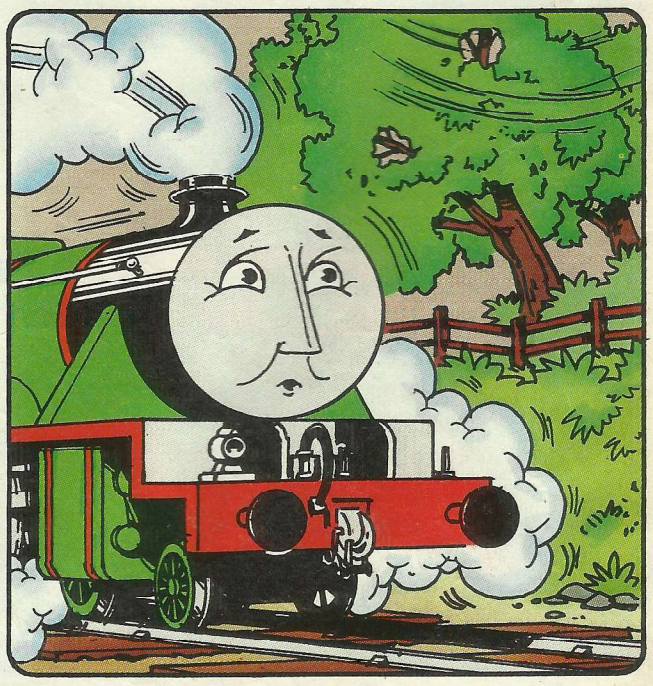
1 A very strong wind had blown across the Island of Sodor. Harold the Helicopter had been very busy, as many trees had blown on to the tracks.

2. "There goes Harold again. He must get very tired," said Thomas, as Harold flew over the yard. "Engines have to work just as hard," snorted Henry.

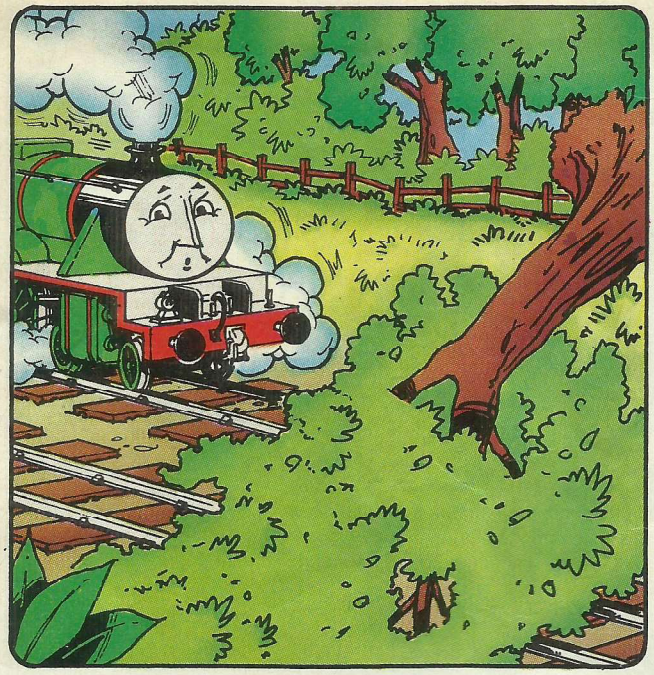
3. The Fat Controller was also very busy. Keeping his railway running on time in the bad weather meant taking many extra precautions.

4. "Be very careful to look out for anything blowing on to the track," he told Henry's driver, before they left. "We don't want any serious accidents, do we?"

5. It was Henry's turn to take the train through the forest. "Keep it up, Henry! You're making very good time!" called his driver, as the wind blew harder.

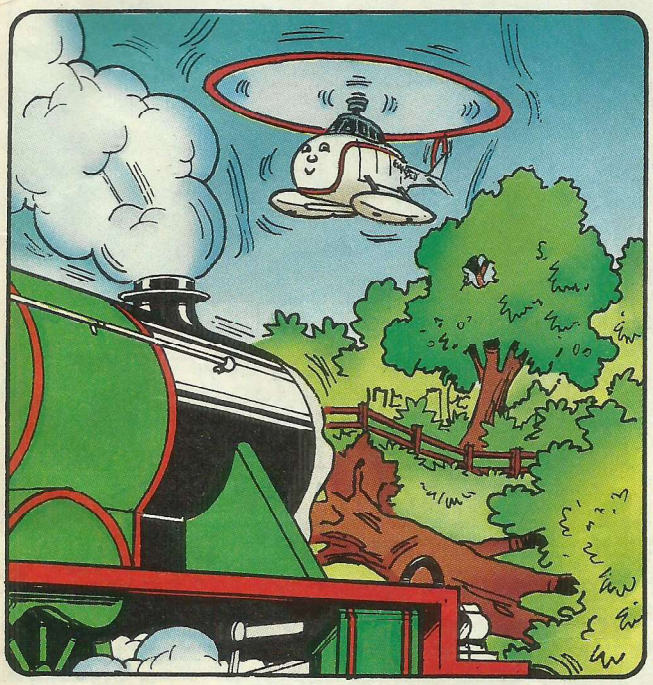


6. Henry raced through the forest as the trees swayed and creaked terribly. He was worried that a branch might land on one of his coaches.



7. As Henry rushed on , he heard a loud crash. A huge tree had fallen up ahead, blocking both lines. Henry's driver pulled the brake lever.

8. "Both lines have been blocked," Henry's driver reported. "This is a job for Harold. I'll alert the airfield at once," replied the Fat Controller.



9. Harold soon arrived. "Hello, Henry!" called Harold. "Don't worry, I've brought some woodcutters along. Their saw will soon chop up the fallen tree!"

10. "We'll need some empty trucks and a crane," everyone agreed. "Thomas is bringing the trucks right away," replied Henry's driver.

11. "There's no need to worry about the crane," said Harold's pilot. "Harold can lift the heavy logs into Thomas's trucks." As soon as Thomas arrived, down came Harold's cable to hoist up the first log. Once in position, it was lowered to the waiting truck below. "Thank you, Harold!" called Thomas.

12. Then away went Harold to pick up the other logs, until the line was clear again. Henry had been very quiet, but now he gave a big, steamy sigh. "You were right, Thomas," he said. "Harold does have to work very hard, when the weather is bad. And thanks to him, the line is open again!"

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas and the new wheel!

Lucky Charms is a registered trade mark.

THE CROWDED PLATFORM

One snowy winter's day, the Fat Controller's grandson had come for a visit to the Main Station.

Stephen was enjoying watching the trains as they rolled into the station.

The Fat Controller told him how important it was for the trains to be punctual. "They must never keep their passengers waiting," he explained. "The trains must always keep to their timetables, especially on cold, snowy days like today!"

Stephen was using a notebook and pencil to write down the number of each train as it passed through the station.

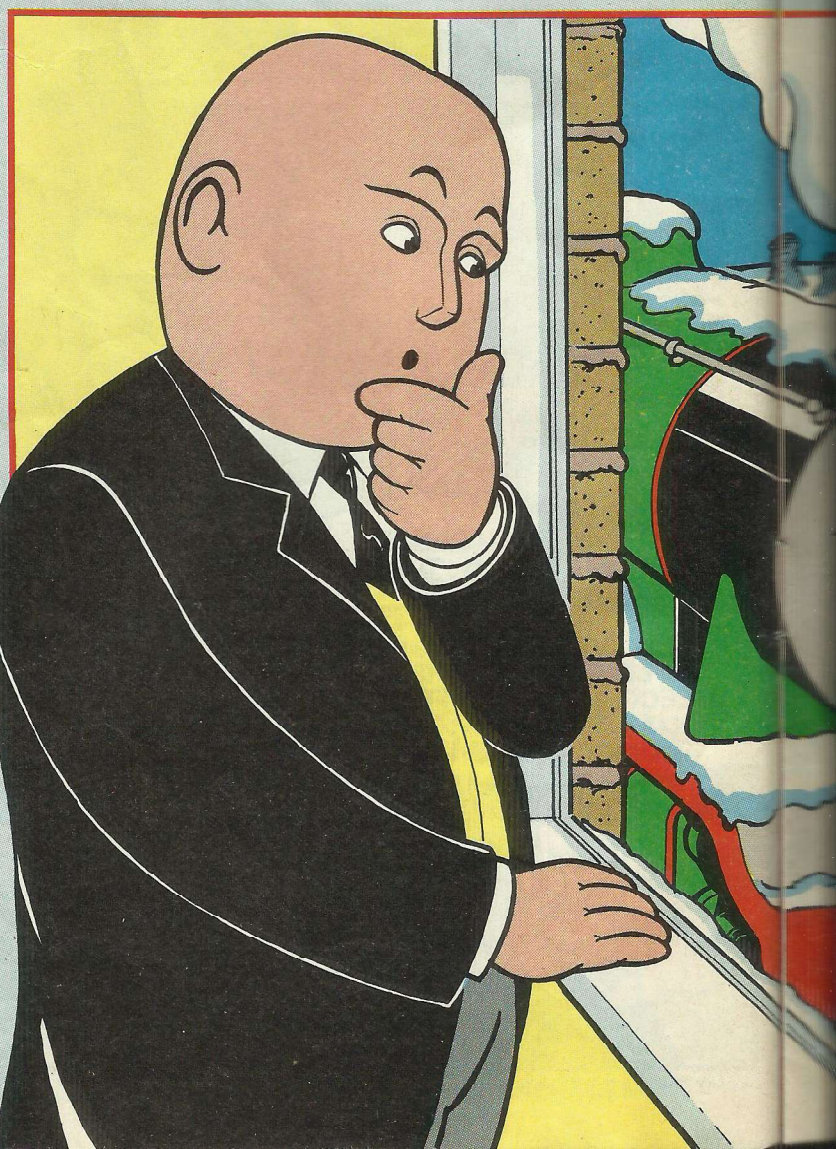
When Thomas pulled in alongside the platform, Stephen told the driver that he had two hobbies. "One is train spotting. My second hobby is..!"

But just then the Fat Controller called for Thomas to set off on his next journey. "You mustn't keep the passengers waiting," he said.

The snow was falling heavily by now and the Fat Controller called for the station guards to keep the platforms swept clear.

"I'll help!" said Stephen, grabbing a broom.

"Good!" smiled the Fat Controller, heading to his office to work on his timetables.



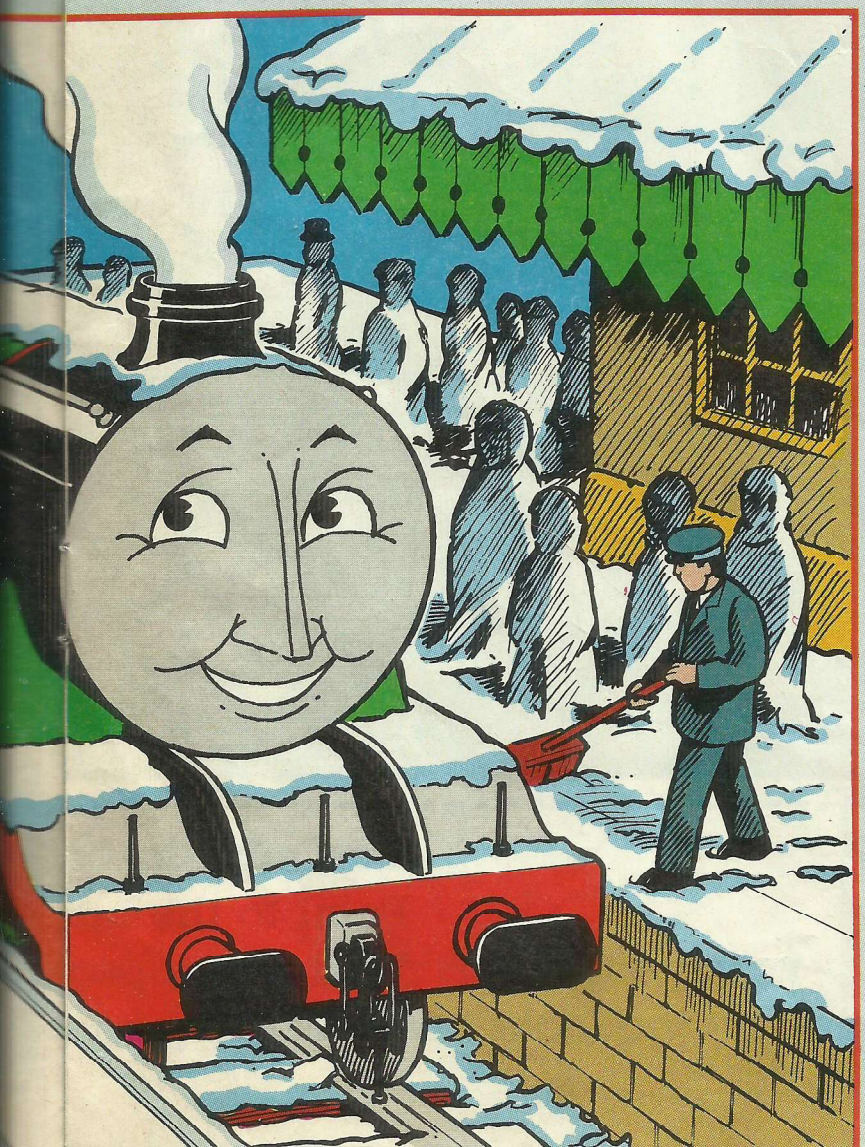
Later, as evening began to fall, the Fat Controller looked out from his office window to see that the platform was crowded with shadowy figures.

Gordon pulled in at the station, but not a single person boarded the train.

After Gordon had steamed away, Henry arrived at the platform. But, once again, the waiting crowd stayed on the platform.

"Why don't they board?" wondered the Fat Controller.

He puzzled over his timetables wondering which



train the crowd were waiting for. "I'd better investigate," he said to himself.

The Fat Controller came out of his office to speak to the crowd. But he was very surprised indeed, because the crowd were, in fact, all snowmen!

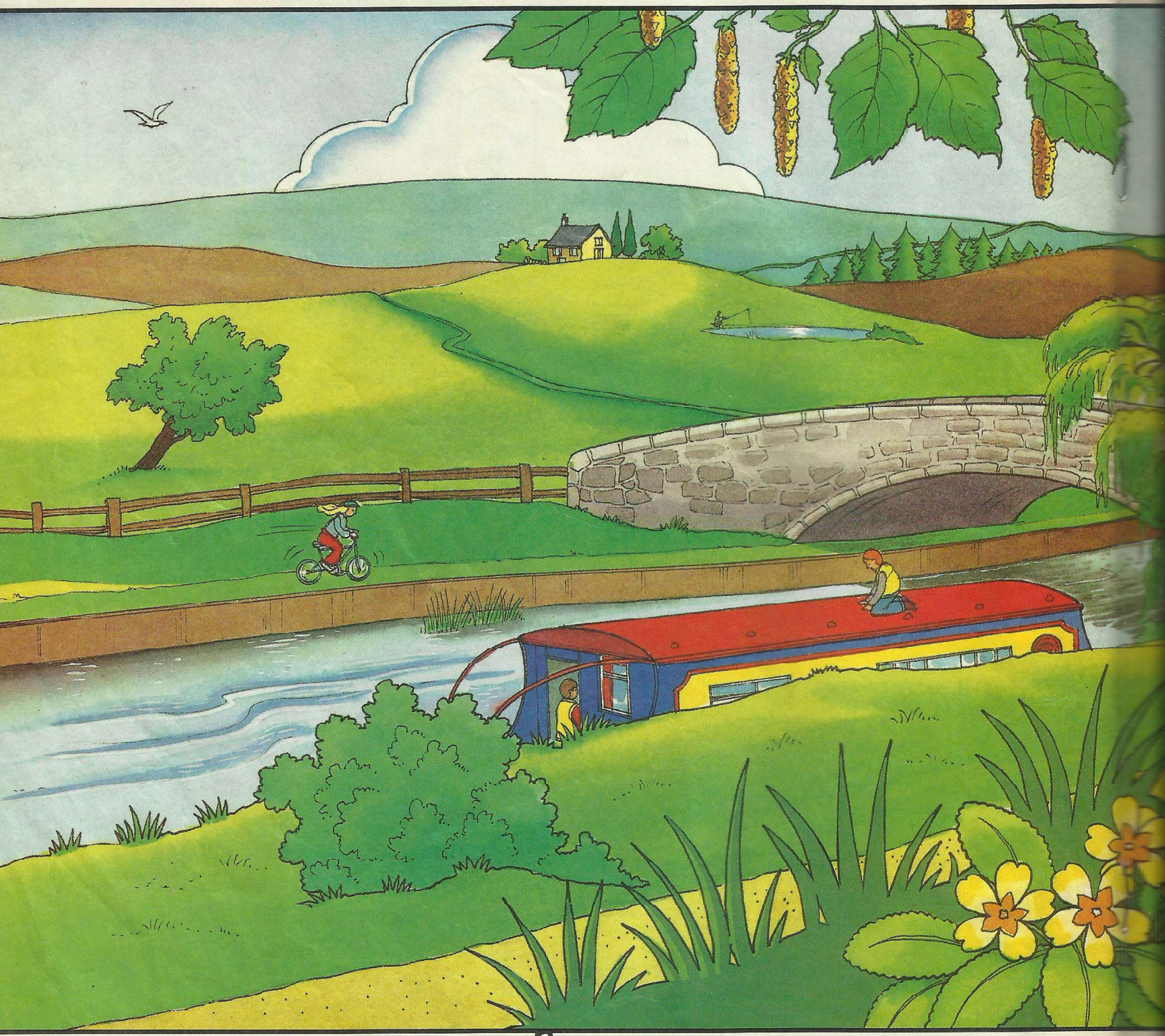
"What a surprise!" he cried in astonishment.

Suddenly, Stephen peered cheekily from behind one of the snowmen. "It was me, grandfather," he said, timidly. "I used the snow from the platform to make these snowmen. Making snowmen is my second best hobby, next to train spotting!"

The Fat Controller was relieved to find that the crowd weren't waiting for a train after all, and he and his grandson laughed about the snowmen all the way home!

THE END

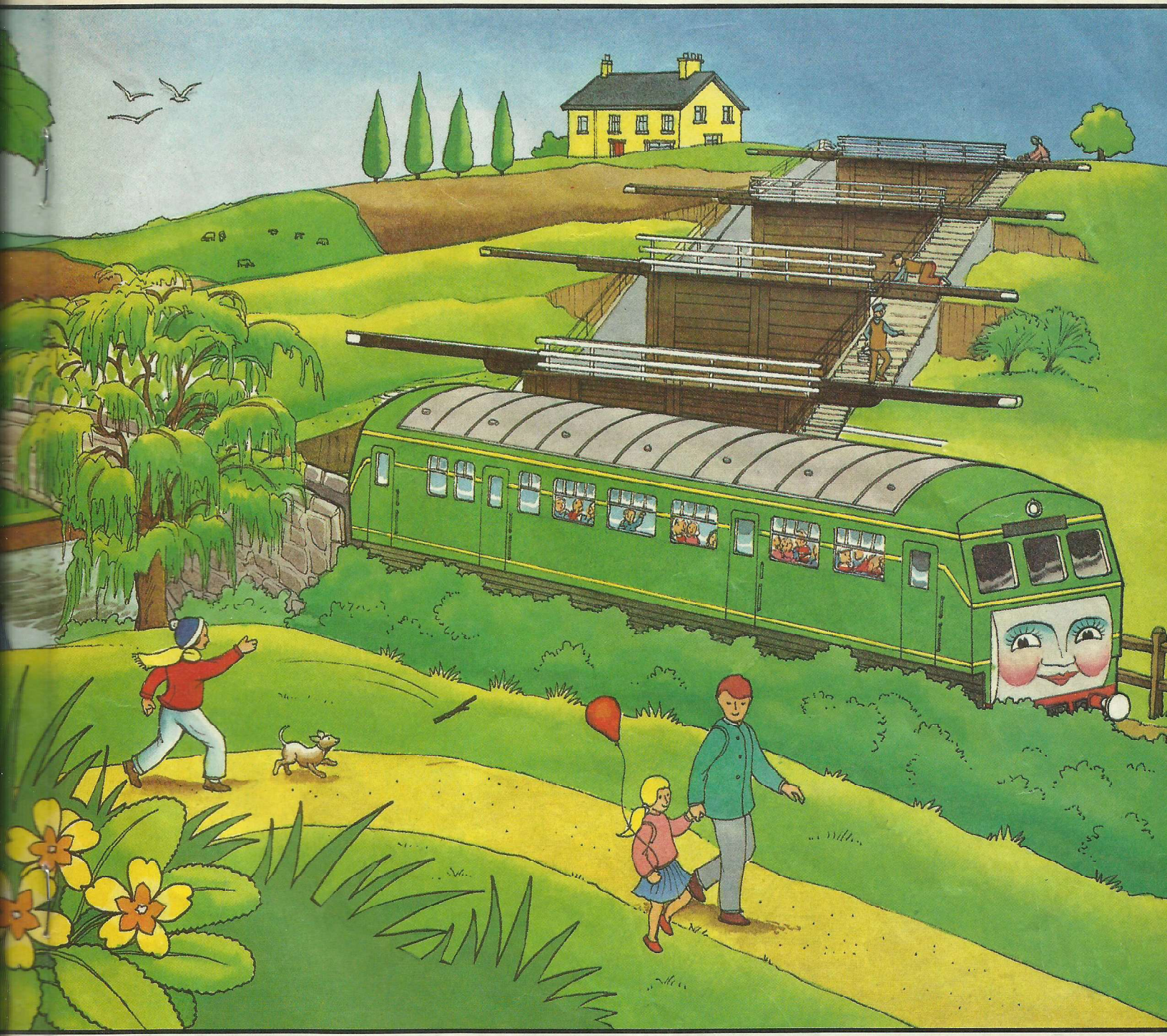
Past the lo



Which engine can you see?
What colour is she?
What is she passing by?
How many people are working by the locks?

Can you see the
Point to the barge
How many people
How many house

ocks!



the canal?

barge!

people are walking along the path?

houses can you see?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Behind the village fête!

COMPETITION!

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

Don't miss this special opportunity to enter this exciting competition and have the chance of winning one of the following splendid prizes, from ERTL (UK).

ERTL®

1ST PRIZE:
12 Thomas the Tank Engine remote control engines!

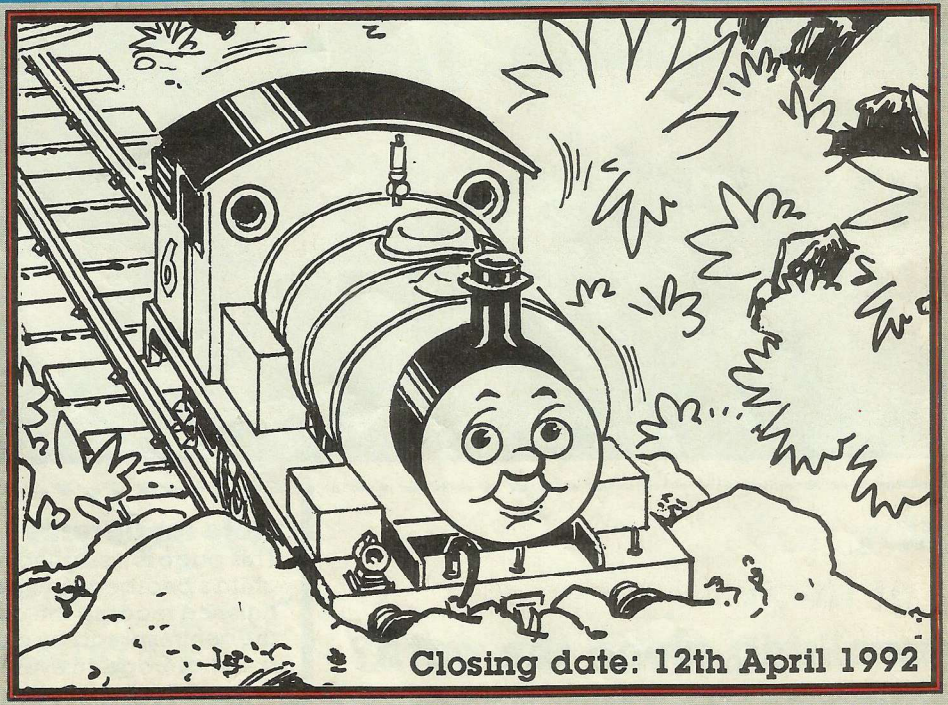
2ND PRIZE:
24 x 3-piece standard sets including Thomas, Annie and Clarabel!

3RD PRIZE:
24 Thomas the Tank Engine standard die cast models!

How to enter:
Colour in the splendid picture on this page as brightly and carefully as you can. Fill in your details in the section below, answering the simple question, as well! Then send this page to: ***Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.***

Name.....
.....
Age.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Percy is number ..... on the Fat Controller's railway!

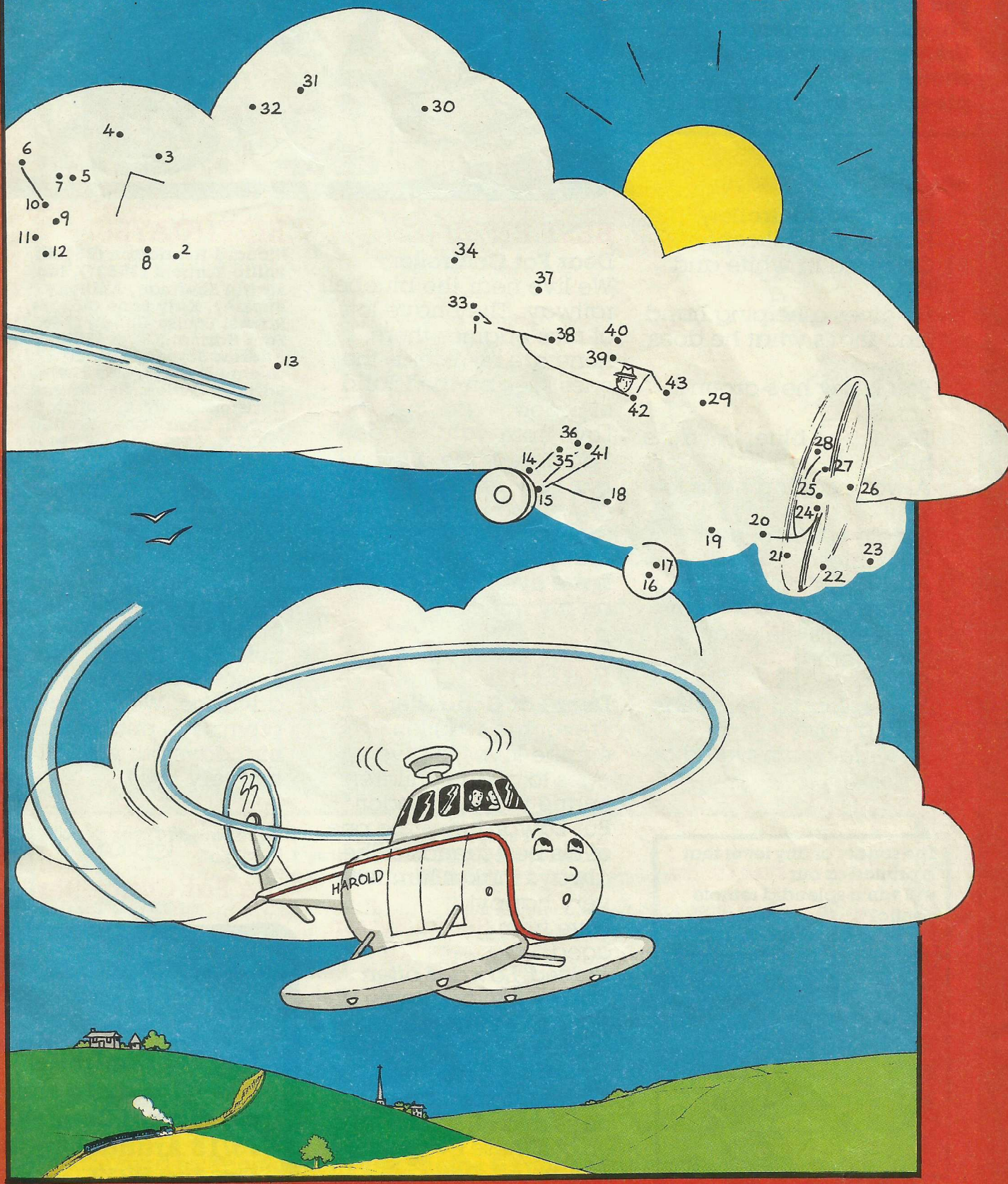


Closing date: 12th April 1992

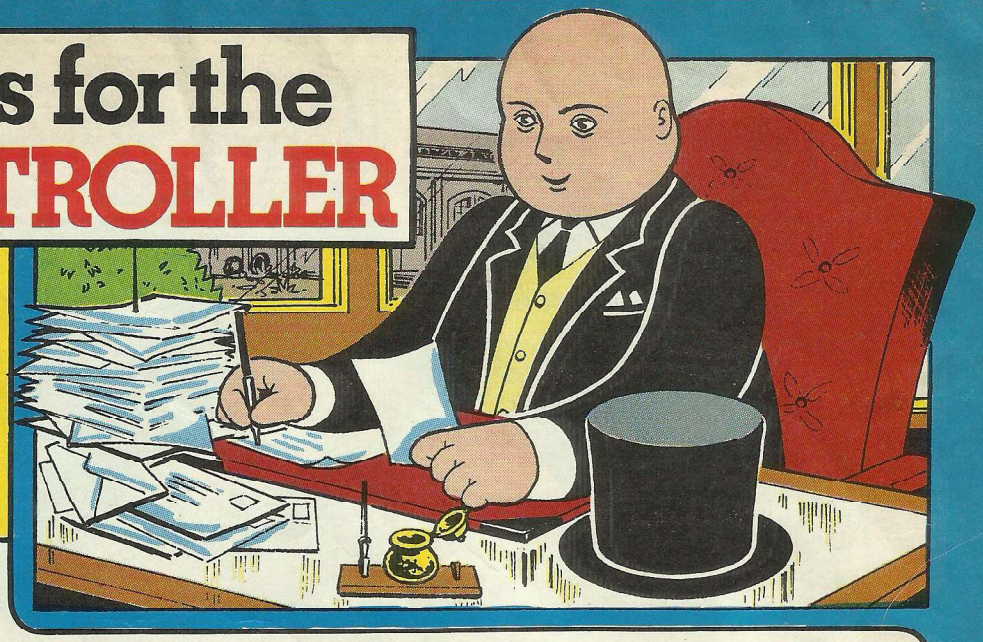
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

JOIN THE DOTS!

"Mind out!" calls Harold! "You're very near!"
Join the dots and something will appear!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Harold is a helicopter
Coloured in white and red.
He gives a helping hand
And that's what he does best.
You know he's around, across
The sky so blue, because he's
Always calling hello to you!
Harold is one of my favourites
And I love him like a friend.
Now that's the end!
Love from **Daniel**, aged 6.
Your splendid verse has won a prize,
To write again would be wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid remote control Thomas the Tank Engine from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

BEST ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
We live near the bluebell railway. They have lots of nice engines there, but none are as nice as the ones I see on the Island of Sodor!
Love from **Natalie**, aged 8.
I do agree, the bluebell is a very fine and well organised railway indeed and I'm flattered that you think that I have even finer engines on my railway!

TREVOR'S BEST FRIEND!

Dear Fat Controller,
Trevor the Traction engine loves to give rides to all the children on the Island of Sodor! But Edward must be one of his best friends as he always makes him feel very happy!
Love from **Shaun Tyssen**, aged 3.
Indeed! Edward often passes Trevor's home, the Vicarage Orchard. I often ask Edward to tell Trevor when we are having special open days and fêtes, as Trevor enjoys these events very much!

BIRTHDAYS!

Richard Henderson (35420), Philip Yarnold (35527), Ian Martin Sherman, Anthony Buckley, Katy Fone (36233), Rachel Louise Child's (34835), Sam Harman, Rhys Wilkinson, Andrew James Stone (18275), George Hallard, Kris Macey, Barnaby Judge, Ashley Amos, Christopher Work, Christopher Tyrrell, Christopher Herring (28272), Paul Andrew Feesey (29653), Robert Bridge, Heather McGeachy (30921), James Alsop (30210), Alexander Ploughman, Robert Cage, Barney Burchell (34368), Ruth Jefferey, James Florey.

If you would like a birthday mention on this page, please send details on a post card at least **9 weeks** in advance. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays but we will do our very best!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

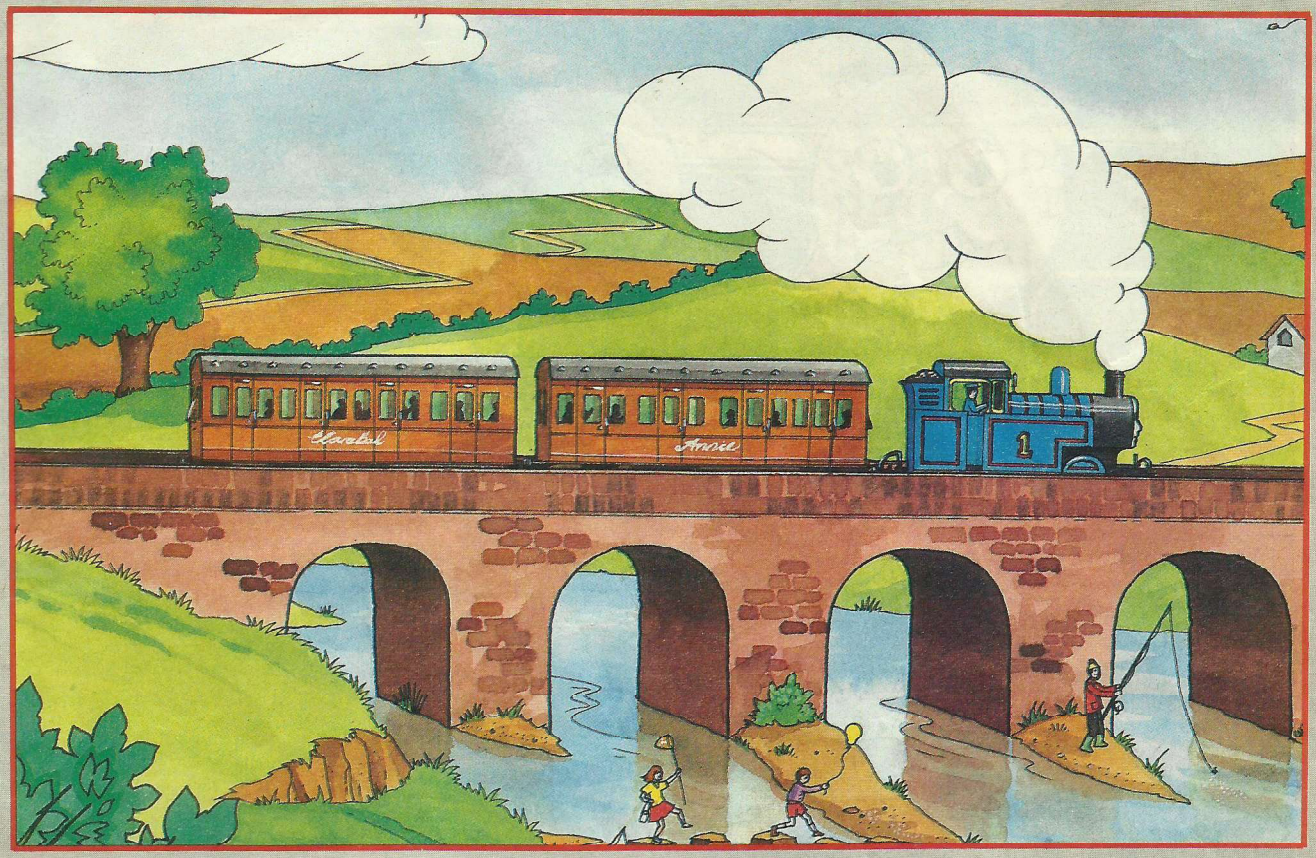
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (**£35.00** overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00** (**£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00** (**£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00** (**£18.00** (overseas).

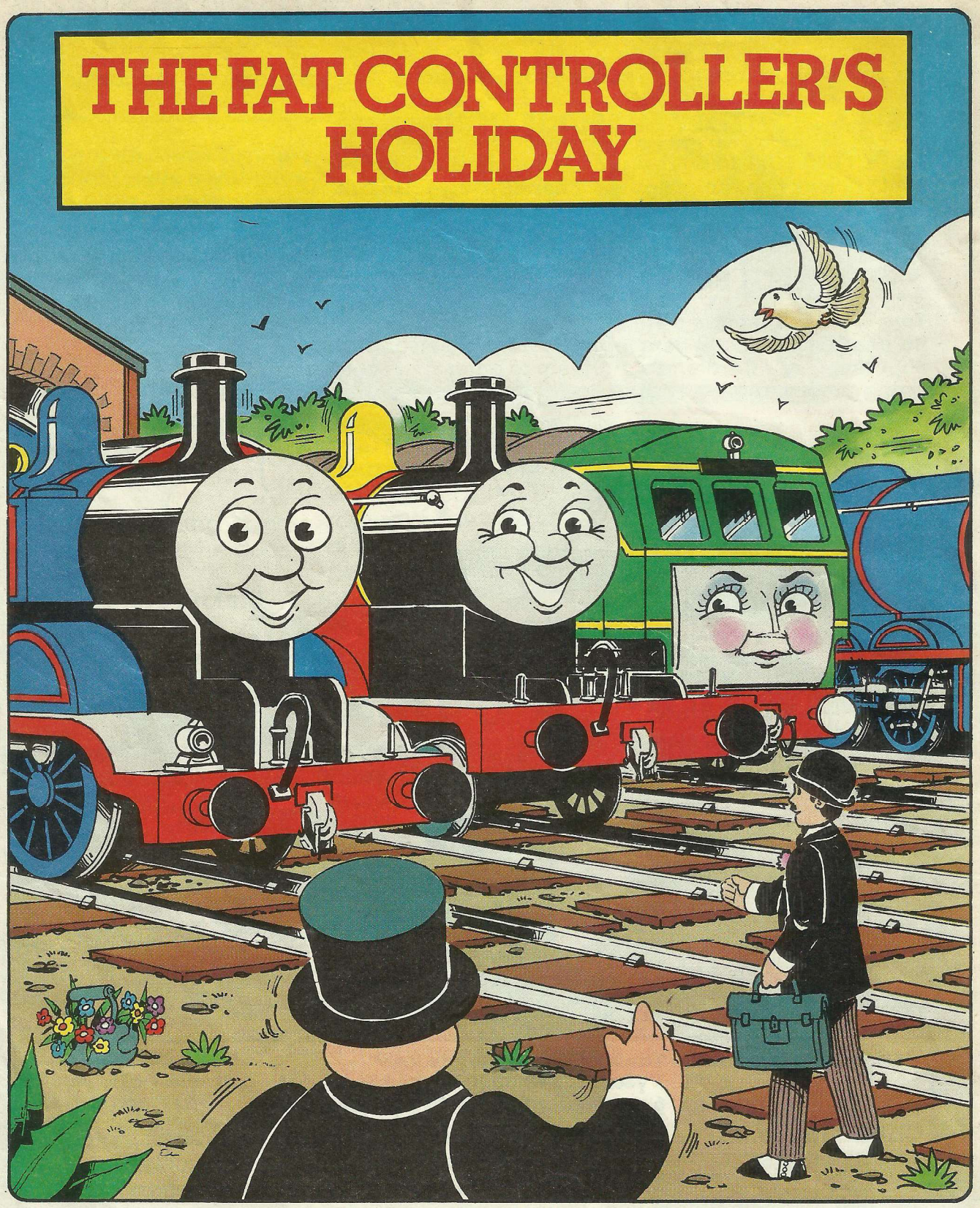
Child's name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....
.....
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

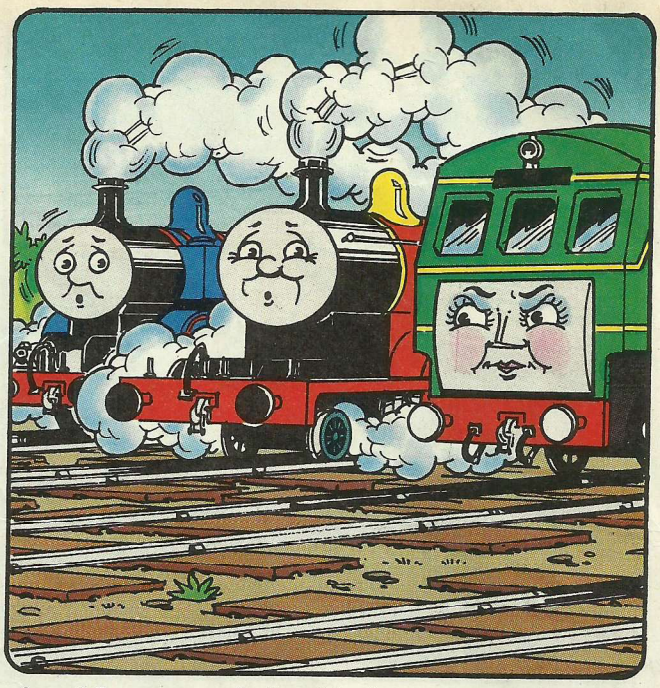
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S HOLIDAY



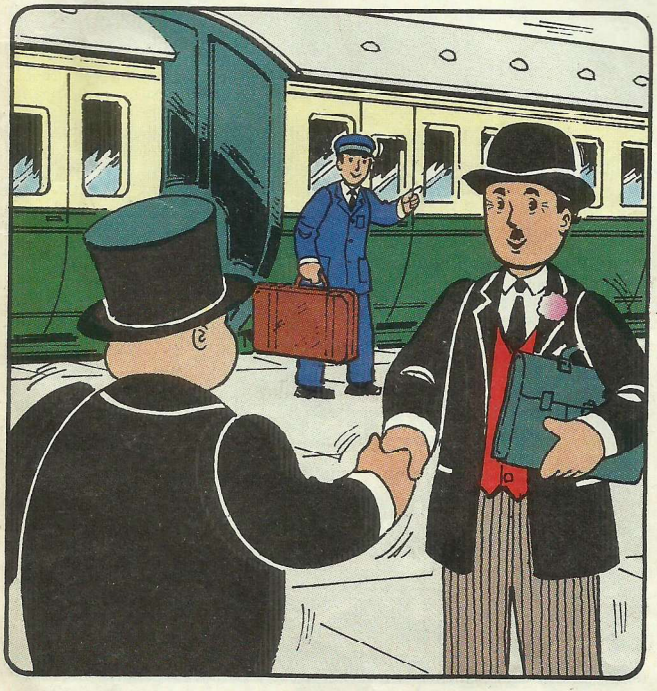
1. The Fat Controller was in the yard making an important announcement. With him was a stranger, who wore a bowler hat and carried a briefcase.

2. "I will be going away for a short holiday," said the Fat Controller. "While I'm away, the director from the mainland will be running my railway!"

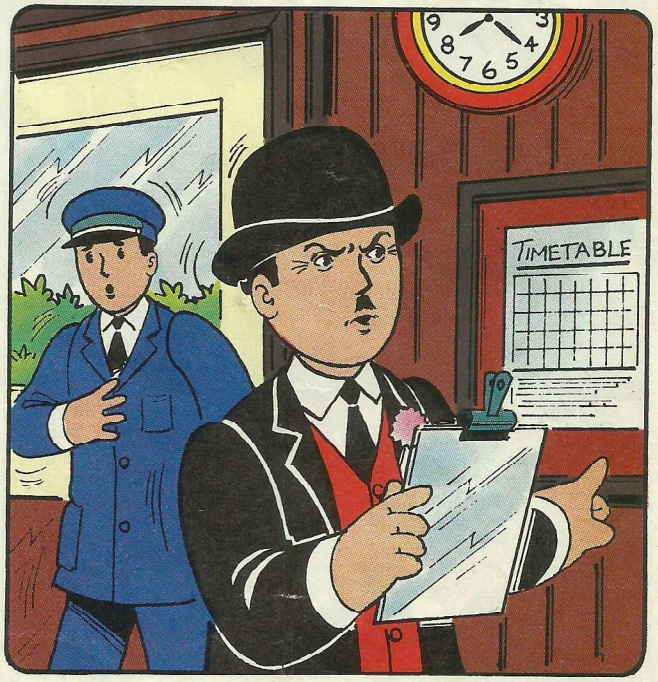
3. "We can all have a holiday, too!" hissed Daisy. Most of the other engines agreed because nobody else would be able to run such an efficient railway.



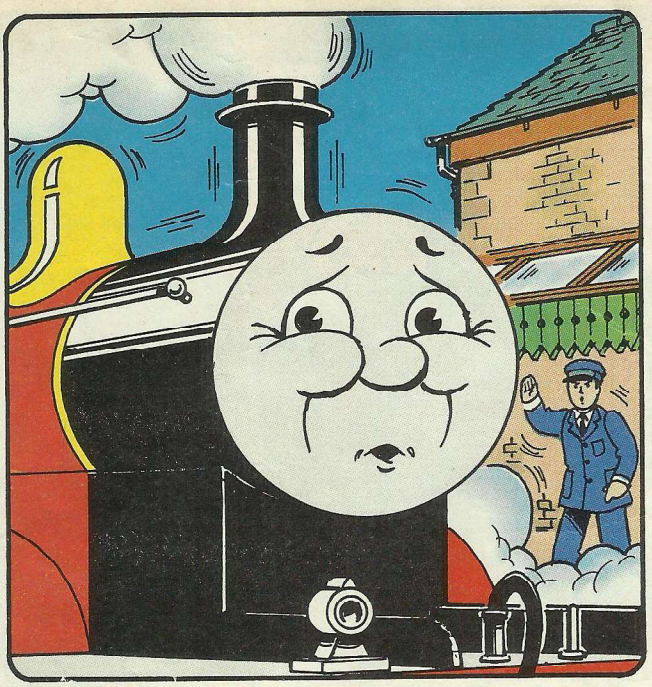
4. "I wouldn't be sure of that," purred Daisy. "I remember that director, before I came to the Island of Sodor, and he was very strict indeed."



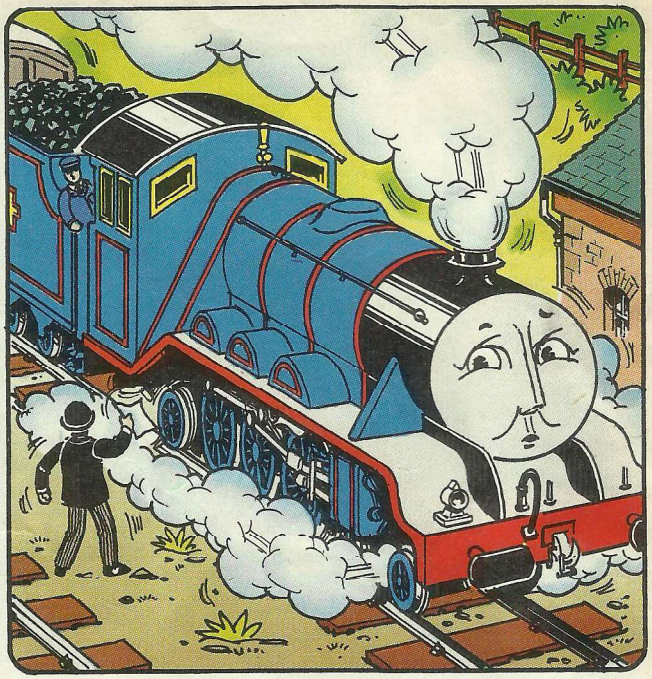
5. "My engines are usually well behaved, but don't stand any nonsense," said the Fat Controller. "Don't worry, I know how to run a railway," said the director.



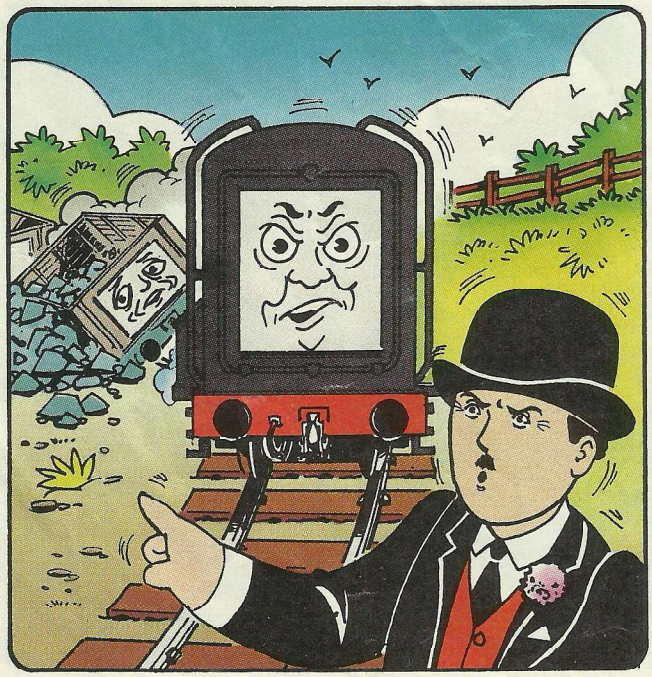
6. When the Fat Controller left, the director checked the timetables. "The Fat Controller will be pleased if I could make the railway more efficient," he thought.



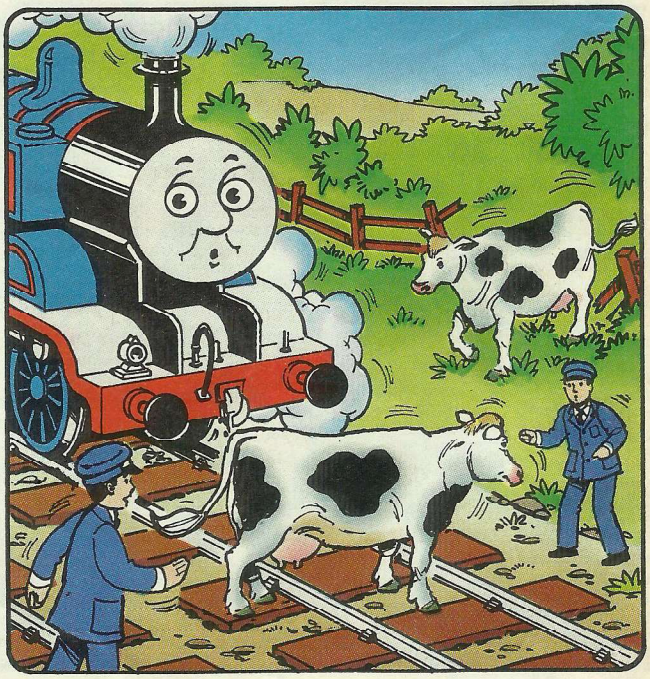
7. From this moment on, all the engines were ordered to go faster. Then James overshot the platform. "I couldn't help it," protested James.



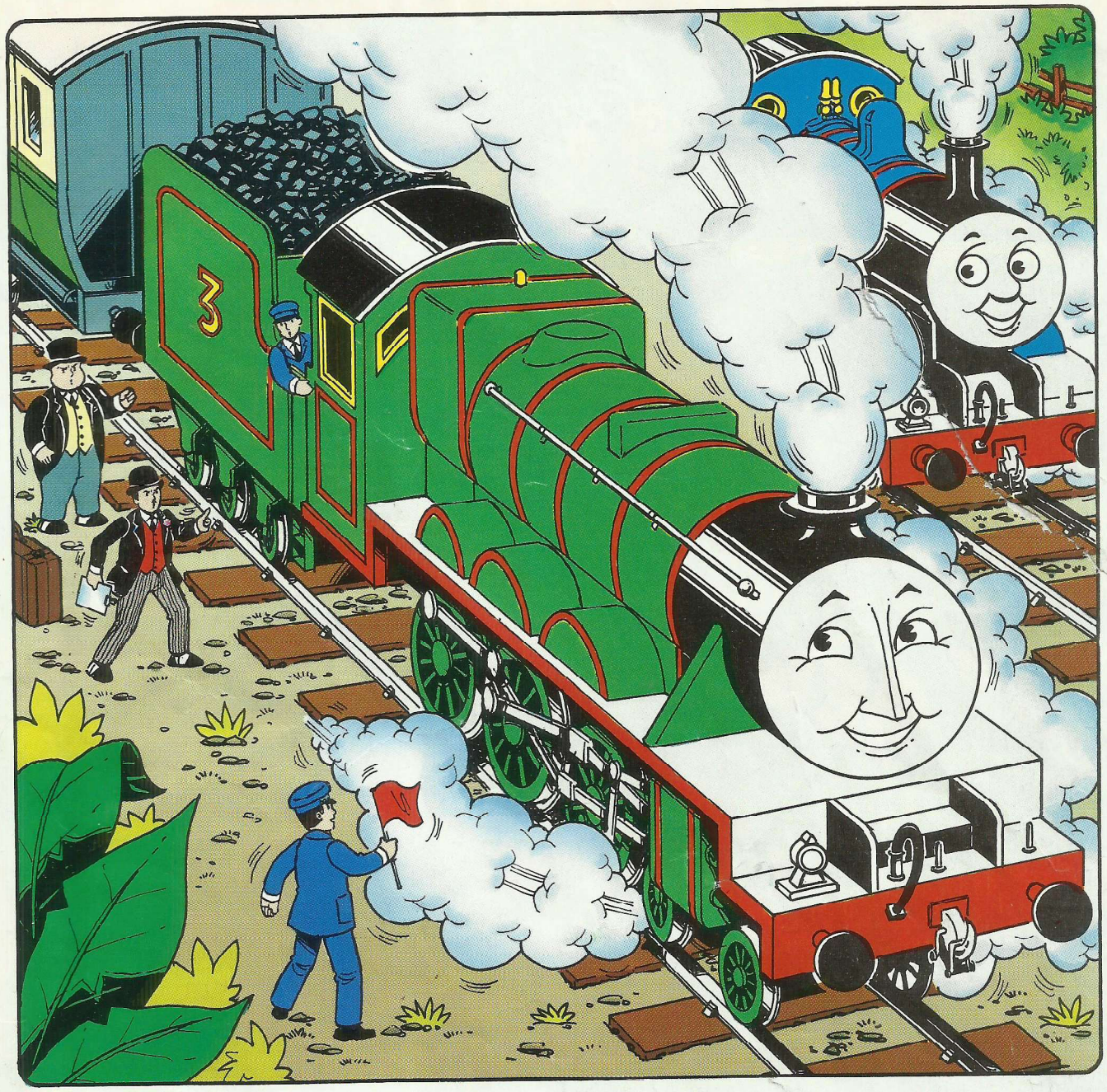
8. "Gordon needs to go faster!" said the director. "His passengers won't have such a smooth journey," advised Gordon's driver. The director didn't listen.



9. When Diesel was made to shunt twice as many trucks, he lost his temper and caused an accident. "Go to your shed now," the director ordered.



10. Thomas was delayed, too. Because some cows strayed on to his line. But the director would not accept any excuses and called him a lazy engine!



11. In fact, the director would not listen to anyone. Since the director had arrived, instead of making the Island of Sodor railway services run faster, not one engine had been on time.! And when Henry arrived from the Harbour Yard three minutes late, the director was very annoyed indeed!

12. "What is your excuse!" he yelled. "We had to wait for a special passenger," replied Henry's driver. "On my railway, everyone tries to be kind and polite," said the Fat Controller. He had returned from his holiday early. The engines were pleased to welcome him back and very relieved to see the director leave!

THE END

In our next issue: So much to see!

HOW LONG WILL YOUR

FREE WEETO SPINNING TOP

SPIN FOR?

50 seconds?

60 seconds?

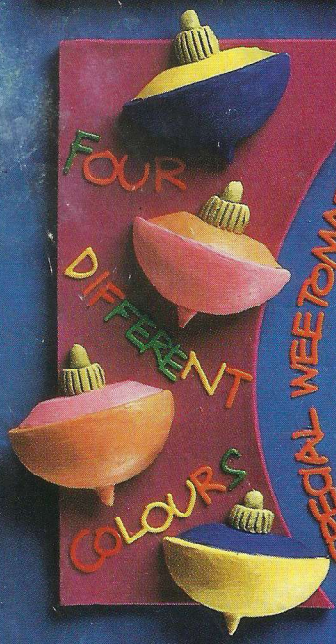
OR more seconds?

MY FREE SPINNING TOPS ARE

AERO-DYNAM-ICALLY ADVANCED

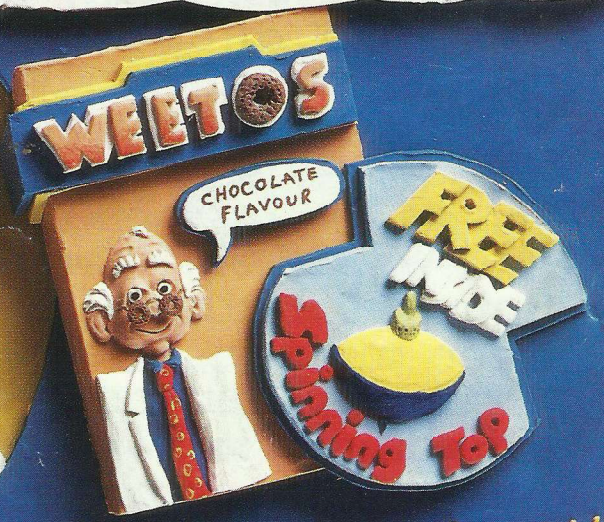
(FOR A LONGER SPIN CYCLE.)

SPECIALLY IF YOU GIVE THE STARTING HANDLE A REALLY SHARP PULL



A SPECIAL WEETOMATIC PROCESS SOMETIMES MAKES THEM WHISTLE

YOU GET ONE FREE IN EVERY BOX OF CHOCOLATE FLAVOUR WEETOS



START COLLECTING NOW!

ADVERTISEMENT